

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Under the order just entered, the Senate will return for regular business on Wednesday, January 25. On Tuesday, the Judiciary Committee should report the nomination of Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The leader has announced we will proceed to consider the nomination when it is available for floor debate and that will be on Wednesday. We will remain on the Alito nomination until we are able to vote on the confirmation. We hope to have an organized debate to allow all Members to speak. We will try to line up an order next week when we begin. The majority leader reiterates that Senators should be ready next week for this historic debate and that everyone should keep a flexible schedule so we can vote at the first available time.

Mr. REID. If the distinguished Senator will yield.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have received calls from a significant number of Senators. Senator FRIST is right, we will have a dignified debate. It will be organized. We will do whatever is appropriate according to who wants to speak. Most all Democratic Senators will want an opportunity to speak in regard to the nomination of Samuel Alito. We look forward to that sometime next week.

I also ask that following the swearing in of Congressman MENENDEZ, the only two speakers allowed in the Senate on this day are Senator MENENDEZ and Senator LAUTENBERG, the two Senators from New Jersey. This is in keeping with the agreement I have with Senator FRIST. I ask consent that be the case.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, so ordered.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator Jon Corzine of New Jersey.

Without objection, the letter is deemed read and spread upon the Journal.

The letter follows.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2006.
Hon. RICHARD B. CHENEY,
President of the U.S. Senate, U.S. Senate, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I hereby give notice of my resignation of the office of the United States Senator from the State of New Jersey, effective 11:59 a.m. on January 17, 2006.

Sincerely,

JON S. CORZINE.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair now lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment of Senator-designate ROBERT MENENDEZ of the State of New Jersey.

Without objection, it will be placed on file and the certificate of appointment will be deemed to have been read.

The certificate follows.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Trenton, NJ, January 17, 2006.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To: The President of the Senate of the United States

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of New Jersey, I, Jon S. Corzine, the governor of said State, do hereby appoint Robert Menendez a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by my resignation from the Senate is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our governor, Jon S. Corzine, and our seal hereto affixed at Trenton this 17th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2006.

By the governor:

JON S. CORZINE,
Governor.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator-designate will present himself at the desk and the Chair will administer the oath of office as required by the Constitution and prescribed by law.

The Senator-designate, ROBERT MENENDEZ, escorted by Mr. LAUTENBERG, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the President pro tempore, and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

MAKING MINORITY PARTY ASSIGNMENTS TO COMMITTEES FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COBURN). The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 348) making minority party assignments to certain Senate committees for the 109th Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 348) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 348

Resolved, that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXV, the following shall con-

stitute the minority party's membership on the following standing committees for the 109th Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs: Mr. Sarbanes (Ranking Member), Mr. Dodd, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Reed, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Carper, Ms. Stabenow, and Mr. Menendez.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Mr. Bingaman (Ranking Member), Mr. Akaka, Mr. Dorgan, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Salazar, and Mr. Menendez.

Special Committee on Aging: Mr. Kohl (Ranking Member), Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Wyden, Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Carper, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Mrs. Clinton, and Mr. Salazar.

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Conrad (Ranking Member), Mr. Sarbanes, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Ms. Stabenow, and Mr. Menendez.

Select Committee on Ethics: Mr. Johnson (Vice Chairman), Mr. Pryor and Mr. Salazar.

Select Committee on Intelligence: Mr. Rockefeller (Vice Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Bayh, Ms. Mikulski, and Mr. Feingold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the leadership for according me an opportunity to present my new colleague. All of us are going to be missing Jon Corzine, a dear friend and former colleague who served this body very well but responded to the call of duty when things in New Jersey needed a leading hand. Jon Corzine responded and took up the assignment.

In Senator Corzine's place, we are fortunate to be able to have a candidate of the skill and knowledge that Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ has.

BOB MENENDEZ is a typical American story. He was born in America of parents who had immigrated from Cuba. He has worked his way through the system very well. As a very young man—high school age—he challenged the mayor and the leadership of the community in which he lived in New Jersey and fought his way to making certain they were going to be cleaning up some of their bad habits in Union City, such that he had to at times wear a bulletproof vest when he was 17 years old. He, thusly, had a place in the political mainstream as a very young man.

He became mayor of Union City, NJ, and then served in our general assembly from 1987 until 1991 and in the New Jersey Senate—he has been through all of the steps to leadership—from 1991 to 1993. He then came to the U.S. Congress